

BOARD of FINANCE
May 9, 2013, 7:30 PM
Town Hall Meeting Room

Approved 10/10/2013

Chmn. Sargent called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM

Present: Board members Chmn Sargent, V Chmn O'Brien, Michael Carter, Steve Ezzes, Patty Kopas and Melissa Koller. *(Not attending David Finkel)* Tom Landry Town Administrator, Rick Darling Finance Director, Colleen Palmer Supt. Of Schools, Joann Keating School Finance Director, secretary Donna M. Anastasia and approximately 20 others in attendance.

Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of McGladrey et al as the Town auditor for the 2012-13 fiscal year. – Rick Darling

Motion: Ms. Kopas so moved, Mr. Carter seconded with all in favor motion carries.

Discussion/ decision regarding state aid outlook for FY2013-14. Rick Darling

There was discussion regarding road paving aid. Mr. Darling said there are a number of qualifying projects we will be looking into. Mr. Sargent was interested in the possibility of accelerating the paving of more roads. Mr. Darling stated that currently the revenue reports are not very clear as to what funds can be used but that it is possible and he will follow up on this item.

Discussion/decision regarding setting the property tax mill rate for the 2013-14 fiscal year. – Rick Darling and Board members

There was some discussion regarding the reserve (just under 14% of this year's budget) and long term expenditures such as real estate purchase and associated costs.

Motion: Motion made by Ms. Kopas to set the 2013-2014 FY mill rate at 23.89; motion seconded by Mr. O'Brien. Motion carries unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding an update on the status of the Middle School wetlands mitigation project- Tom Landry

Mr. Landry gave an update on the MS wetlands mitigation which included various steps such as rock removal, planting and the introduction of organic materials to stimulate grass growth. A recent soil test was marginal. Similar circumstances existed at the booster barn and Revson. Conditions were compacted, became more compacted so how much it has to be aerated is not known. The Engineer and vendor are working on it, we should have more information by the end of next week. Mr. Sargent felt the project which has been going on for some time should be done quickly at the least cost and it would be wise to use a supplemental from this year's budget.

Discussion/decision regarding status of the High School doors and windows project.-

Tom Landry stated that the envisioned project today is very different from what it was. Bond funds were used for other projects as well. We have about 600K in the bond account from last year for MS. We knew that what was left would most likely not be enough to cover this project. Last year new safety concerns came up- could someone get in or if needed could someone get out. In June we will have an interim report. The Building Committee will then suggest what to do. There is an environmental issue as well. Mr. Sargent wants clearly defined objectives and added that we have given a lot of fiscal guidance and process; we said the money is in the budget it is your money, there is no more money. We were very clear on our guidance; taxpayers have voted and agreed to spend within that budget. Mr. Landry stated that KDG will provide further information and clarify the scope of the work and if need be the Building Committee would set aside this work and use the funds for other projects.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the PCB issue which is present at the school. Mr. Landry explained that the information has changed from last year and now the town must remediate if PCBs are present. Ms. Palmer also noted that once you know it exists you must remediate; further discussions are needed to decide whether replacement is the best solution or repeat encapsulation and testing. Work can only be done when school is closed so this project would take place next year.

This item will be discussed further late June and we may have to apply for an extension or reapply for grant funds if the timing has expired.

Discussion/decision regarding a supplemental request for the purpose of repair and renovation to several tennis courts. – Board of Education.

There was discussion regarding the repair and renovation of the tennis courts; the single courts which are in significant need and the doubles courts which need crack repair and meshing. The low bid was from Dalton, they did the work at the Booster barn and on the track .¹

Motion: Mr. O'Brien made a motion to approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$59,527. For the repair and renovation to the tennis courts; seconded by Ms. Kopas and with no objections motion carries.

Discussion/decision regarding a request to carry over current fiscal year funds to the next fiscal year, for the purpose of a contingent teaching position. – Board of Education

There was discussion regarding the possible shift in enrollment for grades 5, 1 and kindergarten. Currently there is one contingency teacher included in the budget and we are requesting the carryover, most likely we will need them both.

Motion: Mr. Carter made a motion to approve carryover funds to be used for a contingency teacher position, Ms. Kopas seconded and with none opposed motion carries.

Discussion/decision regarding Board of Education update on the current fiscal year financial outlook, and the extent to which a supplemental appropriation request may be necessary for the Mile of Safety program in FY2012-13.- Board of Education, Police Commission.

Mr. Sargent commented on the information received regarding the Mile of Safety issue is way too much and too late to make a decision at this time. He stated that all boards must work together as a group and in June he would expect a consolidated and organized proposal on this matter. The BOE must ascertain that the numbers are accurate and most likely this will be a supplemental from both sides of the ledger; Police and BOE. One of the problems that occurred here is that the people you needed to talk to, but didn't are those members (BOF) here at this table. We will get it reconciled and done the right way. Mr. O'Brien agreed that both the police and BOE have to figure this out and get back to the board of Finance and it is hard to believe that this hasn't been all sorted out.

¹ Bids are included as attachments

Dr. Palmer agreed that although we try to manage our budget by June we have a much better idea. We will come back with supporting documentation and move forward.

First Selectman Weinstein stated that Mr. Darling and Mr. Landry have been working out the numbers which in part were originally accounting errors. After several days we now have accurate numbers to work with.

Police Commissioner Jess DiPasquale commented that there was a unanimous vote to have an officer in place and it was never to come out of the Police department budget. Commissioners DiPasquale, Moch and Chief Troxell agreed that they will have everything firmed up for a follow up meeting.

Discussion/decision regarding progress on a proposal to hire a School Resource Officer for FY22013-14, and the expectation of a supplemental appropriation request.- Board of Education, Police Commission.

Dr. Palmer noted that the school is doing its due diligence in outlining the duties of the SRO. Mr. Sargent stated that the board of Finance is more interested in the clarity of the role and responsibilities more than a job description. Dr. Palmer stated that unless the individual happens to be a law enforcement agent we are not looking specifically looking for the SRO to play that role; we are more interested in helping young people get over a conflict for example. It is our expectation to have this position in place by January 2014.

Sergeant Ferullo mentioned that he is in the process of applying for a grant for an SRO which would come through the end of July beginning of August if approved.

Any other items to be considered.

Motion: Ms. Kopas made a motion to adjourn to Executive session, Mr. Carter seconded; motion carries unanimously at 8:52 PM

Attending Executive session: Board of Finance members Steve Ezzes, Michael Carter, Michael O'Brien, Jerry Sargent, Patty Kopas and Melissa Koller; Board of Education members Sonya Stack, Nina Daniel, Ellen Uzenoff, Denise Harvey and Phil Schaefer. Police Commission members Jess DiPasquale, Bill Brady and Jeff Eglash. Also in attendance Tom Landry Town Administrator, Gayle Weinstein First Selectman, School Finance Director Joann Keating, Supt of Schools Colleen Palmer, Sgt. Mike Ferullo, Chief John Troxell and Facilities Manager Dan Clark.

The school administration presented a report with school security initiatives and associated costs. The school will prioritize the items and re-address the other boards sometime in June.

Motion: Mr. Ezzes moved to end the Executive session; Ms. Koller made a motion to end Executive session, seconded by Ms. Kopas and with all in favor the Executive session convened at 10:19 PM.

Motion: Mr. O'Brien made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Carter and with all in favor meeting adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Donna M. Anastasia
Town Clerk